

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

25X1

PP RUEA11B
 ZNY CCCCC ZOC STATE ZZH
 UTS5814
 PP RUEHC
 DE RUEHAM #1361/01 0411607
 ZNY CCCCC ZZH
 P 101604Z FEB 83
 FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
 TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1909
 INFO RUEHBL/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT 0903
 RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 1136
 RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS 9219
 RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM 5218
 RUEHJI/AMEMBASSY JIDDA 8649
 RUEHRH/USELO RIYADH 2459
 RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 6186
 BT
 C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 01361

EXDIS

E. O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: OREP, (DECONCINI, DENNIS), JO
 SUBJECT: CODEL DECONCINI'S MEETING WITH KING HUSSEIN
 - FEBRUARY 7

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SUMMARY. KING HUSSEIN TOLD SENATOR DECONCINI THAT AFTER MEETING ARAFAT AND DESPITE THE OBSTACLES, HE HAS EVERY REASON TO HOPE FOR SUCCESS IN MAKING PROGRESS TOWARD NEGOTIATIONS UNDER THE AEGIS OF UNSC RESOLUTION 242. HUSSEIN STRESSED HIS PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ENSURE THAT THE PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVE IS NOT ALLOWED TO SLIP PAST, AND UNDERScoreD HIS CONVICTION THAT FAILURE TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS IN NEGOTIATING A SETTLEMENT WILL RADICALIZE THE MIDDLE EAST. THE KING SAID THAT A FREEZE ON SETTLEMENTS AND PROGRESS IN REMOVING ALL FOREIGN FORCES FROM LEBANON ARE ESSENTIAL FOR NEGOTIATIONS TO BEGIN. END SUMMARY.
 3. SENATOR DECONCINI SPENT FORTY MINUTES WITH KING HUSSEIN EVENING OF FEBRUARY 7. ACCOMPANYING THE SENATOR WERE MR. EARL KATZ, AMBASSADOR AND POLCHIEF. THE KING HAD CINC BIN SHAKIR WITH HIM. FOLLOWING WERE THE MAIN POINTS OF DISCUSSION:

JORDAN'S COMMITMENT TO PEACE:

4. EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR THE KING'S TAKING TIME TO MEET WITH HIM, THE SENATOR EXPLAINED THAT HIS PRINCIPAL FOCUS ON THIS TRIP TO EGYPT, JORDAN, THE WEST BANK, ISRAEL AND LEBANON IS TO GAIN FIRST-HAND UNDERSTANDING OF THE NEED AND JUSTIFICATION FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE TO THE COUNTRIES OF THE AREA, IN

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

83 0492598

SCP

PAGE 002

NC 0492598

TOR: 111016Z FEB 83

PARTICULAR IF LEADERS IN THE REGION ARE ABLE TO MAKE PEACE. THE KING NOTED THAT THERE ARE SOMETIMES DIFFERING ASSESSMENTS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF MIDDLE EAST ISSUES BETWEEN THE U.S. AND ITS FRIENDS IN THE AREA; GEOGRAPHY, DIFFERING PERSPECTIVES ON THE IMMEDIACY OF THE REGION'S PROBLEMS, AND THE DIFFERENT DEGREE OF ENGAGEMENT IN THE AREA'S AFFAIRS MAKE THIS INEVITABLE. NEVERTHELESS, THE MIDDLE EAST, WITH ITS PETROLEUM, STRATEGIC LOCATION AND POTENTIAL FOR SUPERPOWER CONFRONTATION IS AN AREA WHERE THE U.S. HAS MAJOR INTERESTS.

5. FROM JORDAN'S PERSPECTIVE THE AREA NOW IS IN THE MIDST OF A TREMENDOUS STRUGGLE. THE CONFLICTS BETWEEN IRAQ AND IRAN, IN LEBANON AND BETWEEN THE ARABS AND ISRAEL OVER THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE ARE MANIFESTATIONS OF THAT STRUGGLE. FOR JORDAN THE STAKE IN THE OUTCOME OF THIS INSTABILITY IS PRESERVATION OF ARAB IDENTITY AND A "GOOD FUTURE FOR COMING GENERATIONS." AS A RESULT JORDAN HAS BEEN AND IS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO ACHIEVING A JUST PEACE WITH ISRAEL.

JORDAN'S SUPPORT FOR THE PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVE

6. THE SENATOR ASKED ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR ACHIEVING THAT PEACE. HUSSEIN RESPONDED THAT THEY ARE GOOD. BUT, IN THE END SUCCESS WILL DEPEND MORE THAN ANYTHING ON THE U.S. JORDAN IS DOING EVERYTHING IT CAN TO ENSURE THAT THE OPPORTUNITY OPENED UP BY THE PRESIDENT'S SEPTEMBER 1 INITIATIVE IS NOT LOST. ARABS TOOK A MAJOR STEP FORWARD AT THE FEZ SUMMIT; THEY AGREED ON THE NEED FOR A COMPREHENSIVE PEACE SETTLEMENT UNDER THE TERMS OF UNSC RESOLUTION 242 AND ON ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST WITHIN ITS PRE-1967-WAR BORDERS. FOLLOWING THE SUMMIT, JORDAN DETERMINED THAT UNLESS MORE WAS DONE, THE U.S. PROPOSALS AND FEZ SUMMIT OUTCOME WOULD GO NOWHERE; MAINTAINING MOMENTUM IN THE PEACE PROCESS WAS ESSENTIAL. THUS JORDAN INITIATED TALKS WITH THE PLO.

7. IN THESE TALKS JORDAN TOLD ARAFAT THAT IF THE PLO WANTED AN INDEPENDENT STATE, THAT WAS FINE. JORDAN WOULD SUPPORT THE PALESTINIANS. HOWEVER, IF THAT OPTION WAS UNREALISTIC, PRESIDENT REAGAN OFFERED AN ALTERNATIVE. THE TALKS WITH THE PLO WHICH FOLLOWED HAVE PRODUCED SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TOWARD AGREEMENT.

EXDIS

AND "HAVE ALMOST SUCCEEDED IN REMOVING THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE FEZ SUMMIT PRINCIPLES AND THE U.S. PROPOSALS." HUSSEIN SAID JORDAN AND THE PLO HAVE NOW BASICALLY AGREED THAT A FEDERAL-CONFEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL EXIST BETWEEN JORDAN AND A FUTURE PALESTINIAN ENTITY AND THAT PALESTINIAN SELF-DETERMINATION WILL TAKE PLACE WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF ASSOCIATION WITH JORDAN. WE ARE, IN SHORT, THE KING CONCLUDED "ALMOST THERE."

WHAT NEXT

8. ASKED BY THE SENATOR WHETHER JORDAN WILL BE ABLE TO JOIN NEGOTIATIONS, THE KING SAID "I HOPE WE WILL BE IN A POSITION SOON TO COME TO YOU AND TO SAY THAT WE ARE READY TO MOVE TO NEGOTIATIONS ON THE BASIS OF UNSC RESOLUTION 242." HOWEVER, THERE IS STRONG OPPOSITION TO THIS COURSE. THE SOVIETS OPPOSE JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN COOPERATION WITH THE U.S.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

83 0492598

SCP

PAGE 003

NC 0492598

TOR: 111016Z FEB 83

ANDROPOV TOLD THE KING DURING HIS TRIP TO MOSCOW THAT THE USSR WILL OPPOSE SUCH A MOVE BY JORDAN; HE WARNED THE KING THAT JORDAN WOULD BE TAKING ON BURDENS IT COULD NOT BEAR IF HE WENT ALONG WITH THE U.S. JORDAN, HUSSEIN SAID, WILL NOT BE INTIMIDATED OR THREATENED. BUT ARAFAT FEELS HIMSELF UNDER GROWING PRESSURE. NEVERTHELESS, HE IS DETERMINED AND AFTER TALKS WITH HIM EARLIER IN THE DAY HUSSEIN SAID HE BELIEVES THERE IS NOW EVERY REASON TO HOPE FOR SUCCESS.

LEBANON AND SETTLEMENTS

09. SENATOR DECONCINI SAID HIS MAIN CONCERN IS GETTING NEGOTIATIONS STARTED. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE ASKED WHETHER ISRAEL'S WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON WOULD HELP AND WHETHER A FREEZE ON SETTLEMENTS IS ESSENTIAL. HUSSEIN SAID SOMETHING MUST BE DONE ABOUT LEBANON. JORDAN BELIEVES ALL FOREIGN FORCES MUST LEAVE LEBANON. AT THE SAME TIME, HUSSEIN SAID, JORDAN HAS URGED THE U.S. NOT TO LET LEBANON DIVERT ATTENTION FROM THE KEY PROBLEM, A RESOLUTION OF THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE.

10. WITH REGARD TO SETTLEMENTS JORDAN'S UNDERSTANDING IS THAT THE U.S. WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO STOP SETTLEMENTS. JORDAN SEES THE SETTLEMENTS AS ILLEGAL. AT THE SAME TIME IT DOES NOT SAY THAT THEY HAVE TO BE DESTROYED. THERE ARE OPTIONS FOR DEALING WITH THE SETTLEMENTS, A TRADE OF PROPERTY BETWEEN ARABS AND ISRAELIS, FOR EXAMPLE. SENATOR DECONCINI STATED THAT THE LEGALITY OF THE SETTLEMENTS WAS A MATTER TO BE DETERMINED BY NEGOTIATIONS; HE DID NOT DOUBT THE AREAS OF THE WEST BANK OR GAZA WERE UNDER OCCUPATION. BUT, THE PROBLEM IS ENSURING THAT ISRAEL COMES TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE. THE SENATOR SAID HE FRANKLY DOUBTS THAT A SETTLEMENTS FREEZE IS ACHIEVABLE, AND HE DOES NOT FORESEE THE U.S. TRYING TO "INTIMIDATE ISRAEL" BY CUTTING AID. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE SAID, HE DOES BELIEVE THE CONGRESS WILL COMMIT ITSELF TO HELP, PROVIDING THIS DOES NOT MEAN A REQUIREMENT "TO FORCE ISRAEL." CONCLUDING THE CONVERSATION THE KING SAID THAT THE PROBLEM FOR JORDAN IS THAT IF NEGOTIATIONS START AND FAIL, THE ONLY WINNER WILL BE RADICAL FORCES IN THE AREA. THE MODERATES AND THE UNITED STATES WILL BE THE LOSERS. YET ISRAEL SEEMS DETERMINED TO HELP THE FORCES OF RADICALISM. EVEN IN THE IRAQ-IRAN CONTEXT, WHERE AN IRANIAN VICTORY WILL EXPOSE THE ENTIRE GULF TO THE FORCES OF RADICALISM AND SOVIET PRESSURE, THE ISRAELIS ARE HELPING IRAN. IN RESPONSE TO THE SENATOR'S COMMENT THAT THIS IS NOT IN ISRAEL'S INTEREST THE KING AGREED BUT SAID UNFORTUNATELY THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT DOES NOT SEE IT THIS WAY.

11. COMMENT: THE KING SAW SENATOR DECONCINI JUST AFTER COMPLETING A LENGTHY ROUND OF TALKS WITH ARAFAT. HE ASKED THE SENATOR THAT HIS REMARKS ABOUT THE POSSIBLE POSITIVE OUTCOME OF THOSE TALKS BE HELD IN THE STRICTEST CONFIDENCE IN ORDER NOT TO COMPROMISE THE SENSITIVE ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS.

12. THIS REPORT HAS BEEN CLEARED BY SENATOR DECONCINI.
VIETS

END OF MESSAGE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL